

Majesty to yield to my entreaties, and let us be included in the number of your faithful subjects." — " You! " — "Yes, Sire ; or if your Majesty persist in your refusal, permit a son to inquire what can have raised your displeasure against his mother. Some say that it was my grandfather's last work ; but I can assure your Majesty that my mother had nothing to do with that." — "Yes, certainly," added Napoleon, with more ill humor than he had hitherto manifested. " Yes, certainly, that work is very objectionable. Your grandfather was an ideologist, a fool, an old lunatic. At sixty years of age to think of forming plans to overthrow my constitution ! States would be well governed, truly, under such theorists, who judge of men from books and the world from the map." — "Sire, since my grandfather's plans are, in your Majesty's eyes, nothing but vain theories, I cannot conceive why they should so highly excite your displeasure. There is no political economist who has not traced out plans of constitutions." — " Oh ! as to political economists, they are mere visionaries, who are dreaming of plans of finance while they are unfit to fulfil the duties of a schoolmaster in the most insignificant village in the Empire. Your grandfather's work is that of an obstinate old man who died abusing all governments." — " Sire, may I presume to suppose, from the way in which you speak of it, that your Majesty judges from the report of malignant persons, and that you have not yourself read it ? " — " That is a mistake. I have read it myself from beginning to end.³⁷ — "Then your Majesty must have seen how my grandfather renders justice to your genius." — "Fine justice, truly ! He calls me the indispensable man, but, judging from his arguments, the best thing that could be done would be to cut my throat! Yes, I was indeed indispensable to repair the follies of your grandfather, and the mischief he did to France. It was he who overturned the monarchy and led Louis XVI. to the scaffold." — " Sire, you seem to forget that my grandfather's property was confiscated because he defended the King." — "Defended the King ! A fine defence, truly ! You might as well say that if I give a man poison and present him with an antidote when he is in the agonies of death 1